



Anette and Morten Pedersen with their children

Pedersen (Petersen) Family Tree

Morten Pedersen
B: Oct. 30, 1819 - Nykøbing Mors, Denmark
D: Feb. 1, 1879 - Blovst, Denmark

Ane Andersdatter Hjerbeck
B: Sept. 18, 1821 - Gøteborg, Denmark
D: Jan. 13, 1880 - Brovst, Denmark

They married on Nov. 21, 1847 in Nykøbing Mors, Denmark



Dr. Harvard Hull Descendant of Brovst Residents Part of The Manhattan Project



Ane Andersdatter Hjerbeck, Petersen and Morten Pedersen with youngest daughter, Petera Ekman.

During part of the time that Denmark was occupied by the Nazis in World War II, a great-grandson of Brovst residents was secretly working hard to end the war. He was my uncle, Dr. Harvard Leslie Hull. Harvad Hull was born on October 23, 1906 in Holstebro, Nebraska. His father was Joel Leslie Hull, the son of the founder of Minden, Nebraska. His mother was Caroline Larsen Hull, the daughter of Danish immigrants. The Hulls had two other children, Joel and Leta. Leta was my mother. Caroline, Harvad's mother, was the daughter of Paul Christian Larsen, formerly of Hvide Hede and Thisted, Denmark and Caroline Petersen (Petersen) Larsen of Skive and Brovst. Caroline's parents were Morten Pedersen and Ane Andersdatter Hjerbeck Petersen. Morten was born on October 30, 1819 in Nykøbing Mors. Ane was born on September 18, 1821 in Gramming. The couple had six children, Caroline, Harvad's grandmother, was the oldest. She was born on November 10, 1843 in Skive. The Hjerbeck family also lived in Klim, Vrå Skovhus, and Brovst. They spent the majority of their years in Brovst, Skovhus and one of his sons were dyers or fabric. They lived in the parvort, which is located at Kirkegade 50 in Brovst. The building is still standing. Three of the children emigrated to the United States. Morten died on February 1, 1879 in Brovst, and Ane died on January 13, 1880 in Brovst. Services and burial for both of them took place at the church there. When Harvad was a young boy, his family moved to a farm 1 1/2 miles west of Holstein, Nebraska. They helped Harvad's grandfather, Paul Christian Larsen, to run the farm. Caroline Petersen Larsen had passed away by that time. She died in 1903. From an early age, Harvad showed an interest in science. He built crystal radio sets as a boy, and the people of Holstein gathered around to listen to the programming. Harvad had always thought that he would spend his life on the family farm, but an uncle on the Hull side of the family took a special interest in Harvad and told him that he should make physics his field of concentration. The best place to study advanced physics at that time was Columbia University in New York City, so off he went. Following graduation with a doctor's degree in physics, he was employed by Sperry Gyroscope Company in Brooklyn, New York. When the United States entered World War II, he was among those scientists from Columbia who went to Oakridge, Tennessee and became part of The Manhattan Project. Harvad helped to develop the Uranium-235 bomb which was later dropped over Hiroshima, Japan. He had top secret clearance. Many of his relatives did not know his location. Any mail they sent would go to his sister-in-law who would then forward the letters to Oakridge. Harvad's wife, Alta Jones Hull, later said that she noticed whenever Oakridge couples got together socially, the men never talked shop. Of course, they were sworn to secrecy. The only thing Harvad told Alta was on the day the bomb was dropped. He said for her to be sure to listen to the news on the radio. Just before that day, a land invasion of Japan was being planned. It would have meant putting the lives of 500,000 American soldiers and sailors at risk, including my father who was stationed in the United States Navy out in the Pacific. The Allies tried to convince Japan to surrender. Airplanes dropped leaflets over Japan, warning the people about the bombs. Citizens were told to evacuate the area. Since the enemy still would not surrender, President Truman made the difficult decision to use the atomic bombs. If it hadn't been for the work of men like Uncle Harvad, my father and many others would not have come home, and I would not have been born. It would have become a much different world. I know that there is a lot of controversy about atomic bombs, but many people who criticize their use were not around during World War II and did not live through those terrible times. Following the war, the Hulls moved to Western Springs, a suburb of Chicago. Harvad and a group of other scientists wanted to work for peace-time uses of nuclear energy. For this purpose, they came up with the idea of establishing Argonne National Laboratories. Having a nuclear facility so close to a heavily-populated area might have become a controversial matter, so the men proceeded carefully. A meeting to discuss the issue was held at the Hull's house. Their two daughters, Gwen and Janet, remembered being the coat check girls as the guests arrived. The scientists decided to locate the laboratories in the nearby suburb of Lemont, Illinois. One of Uncle Harvad's first tasks was to visit farms in the area and convince the farmers to sell some of their land so that Argonne could be built. He encountered many a farmhouse dog. He must have been a fast runner! After Argonne was completed, Dr. Hull became the associate director and also the head of the cosmic control engineering division. He took our family on a tour, and I remember looking through thick glass at large robots performing various tasks. He became known as "The Father of the Hot Lab" for developing a process to separate radioactive materials safely. Other places Harvad worked after that included Capehart-Barnsworth Company in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Limon Industries in Beverly Hills, California; Chicago Aerial Industries in Bellwood, Illinois; and Hull Associates in Western Springs, Illinois. He was honored by The American Nuclear Society in 1978 for his contributions to postwar atomic energy. Also, an annual physics scholarship is awarded at Nebraska Wesleyan in memory of Harvad and Alta Hull. In later years, Harvad mentioned being friends with Colonel Leslie Groves, who was the director of the Manhattan Project. Harvad and Groves called each other "Les" and "Harv". In September of 1972, Uncle Harvad and Aunt Alta made a trip to Thisted, Denmark. Viggo Johannes, a police official, and his wife, Aneta, showed them the places where Harvad's grandfather, Paul Christian Larsen, had lived and worked. At that time, no information was known about Caroline Petersen Larsen's life in Denmark. It wasn't until 1983 that the Museum of Danish America (formerly called The Danish Immigrant Museum) was founded. The museum began to offer genealogical research and translation services. Through the efforts of Michael McShane, the librarian/researcher, and her volunteers, our family was able to find out about the Petersen side of the family. We also received valuable information from people in Denmark - genealogists, relatives, and Villy Dall, a journalist at *Thisted Dagblad*. Uncle Harvad showed us many places of interest in Chicago. I remember standing on the observation deck which was in the roof of O'Hare International Airport in the days before security had to be tightened. We watched in an unbelievable number of planes took off or landed from all directions. As a young girl, I began to realize what a small and somewhat world we all live in. I made up my mind to travel to different parts of it when I grew older. Harvad Hull passed away on October 1, 1985. He helped to save the world at a critical time in history. He will be remembered as a scientist, an inventor, and a good family man. Visit his bio and Aunt Alta's home as researched memorials. July, my sister, and I were in Brovst in July of 2012. I will be returning to your town in July of 2013, and I am looking forward to the visit. I wish that it could be there for your exhibition. It is such a good idea to remind the young people of what happened in the past and to make sure that assistance in history will not be repeated.

My best regards to you,
Nancy Walden - Des Moines, Iowa USA



Harvad L. Hull, 81, scientist and inventor



Harvad L. Hull, 81, scientist and inventor



Hull's wed 50 golden years



Dr. Harvad Hull at home before Dr. Petera Ekman, Kirkegade 50.



Harvad and the Hulls with their sons Viggo and Janet Ekman, Thisted, Denmark, September 12, 1972.

First Child:
Caroline Petersen (Petersen)
B: Nov. 10, 1843 - Skive, Denmark
D: Apr. 30, 1903 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
They married on February 21, 1869 in Franklin Grove, Illinois. They had eight children.



Paul and Caroline Larsen with their family

Second Child:
Andea Hanna Charlotte Petersen
B: Feb. 22, 1850 - Nykøbing Mors, Denmark
D: Mar. 10, 1920 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
Her great-grandson is Viggo Frandsen of Fremont, Denmark. He was her firstborn. There is no known picture of Andea.

Third Child:
Petera Christine Petersen
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Jan. 21, 1920 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
Petera only lived to be 70 years old. Her first name was given to the next daughter, the sixth child. They was a very common name.



Peder (Peter) Humerup Vigbom
B: Dec. 31, 1848
His great-grandson is Ejner Henry Frandsen.

Fourth Child:
Carl Maria Wilhelms Petersen
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Nov. 21, 1900 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
They married on November 16, 1879 in Hvide Hede, Fiske. They had six children. Some of the descendants have attended the reunion.



Sine and Carl Petersen with son Aage Denmark 1880

Sine Marie Lundhald
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Nov. 21, 1900 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
They married on November 16, 1879 in Hvide Hede, Fiske. They had six children.



Carl, Sine, and Aage United States c. 1885

Sine Marie Lundhald
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Nov. 21, 1900 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
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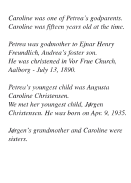
Sine Petersen with her Family

Sixth Child:
Petera Ekman Petersen
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Nov. 21, 1900 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
They married on Jan. 12, 1880 in the Free Church, Aalborg. Petera and Niels had five children. Three lived to adulthood.



Petera and Niels Christensen

Niels Peter Christensen
B: Mar. 21, 1850 - Skive, Denmark
D: Nov. 21, 1900 - Holstein, Nebraska USA
He was educated in the Free Church, Aalborg - July 13, 1866. Caroline was one of Petera's godmothers. Caroline was often over-looked at the time. Petera was godmother to Ejner Henry Frandsen, Andea's father, son. He was educated in the Free Church, Aalborg - July 13, 1866. Petera's youngest child was Augustus Caroline Christensen. He was her youngest child. Augustus Christensen was born on Aug. 9, 1905. Augustus's grandmother and Caroline were sisters.



Fifth Child:
Niels Peter Johannes Petersen
B: Mar. 21, 1855 - Skive, Denmark
On May 1, 1870, at age 15, he left Brovst and went to Aalborg. He emigrated. No information on his arrival in the U.S. is available. He may have returned to Denmark.

